



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,979	01/25/2002	Akihiro Denda	107156-00093	8791

7590 12/24/2003

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
Suite 600
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

KIM, HAROLD J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,979

Applicant(s)

DENDA ET AL.

Examiner

Harold Kim

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3 are presented for examination.
2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not in proper abstract language and format. The Applicant has also included legal language such as "comprises". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yuen, US Patent no. 5,659,367.

5. In re claim 1, Yuen shows a switchover device [700, 740 in fig 20] for effecting a switchover control [700, 740 in fig 20] among a plurality of information sources [702, 704, 733] as well as among a plurality of information processing devices [742, 14, other appliances in fig 20], such that information transmitted from the plurality of information sources are supplied to the plurality of information processing devices in a predetermined manner, the switchover device comprising:

a plurality of input terminals [702, 730, 733] connected with the plurality of information sources [702, 704, 733];

a first output terminal [output terminal to TV in fig 20] and a second output terminal [output terminal to recorder in fig 20] connected with the plurality of information processing devices [14, 742];

switchover connection devices [700, 740] for effecting switchover connection between the plurality of input terminals on one hand and the first, second output terminals on the other; and

a switchover control device [700, 740 including controller in fig 20] for controlling the switchover of the switchover connection devices;

wherein during a process in which an information transmitted from one information source is supplied to the plurality of information processing devices, once there is an interrupt request [908-912 in fig 22A] for supplying an

information transmitted from another information source to the information processing devices, the switchover control device operates to control switchover connection device to stop a connection between the first output terminal and one input terminal connected with said one information source, and to form a connection between the first output terminal and another input terminal connected with said another information source, further to keep a connection between the second output terminal and an input terminal connected with said one information source [figs 22A and 22B, especially 911, 912 and 916 in fig 22B].

6. In re claim 2, Yuen shows a memory [911, 914 and 920 in figs 22A and 22B] for storing a switchover connection state of the switchover connection device when one information transmitted from said one information source is supplied to the plurality of information processing devices, and is provided such that once the interrupt request is cancelled, the switchover control device operates to return the switchover connection device to its former state (a state existing prior to the occurrence of the interrupt request) in accordance with a switchover connection state stored in the memory [920 fig 22B].

7. In re claim 3, Yuen shows an information processing device connected with the first output terminal is an audio reproducing/outputting device [14 in fig 20] for audio-reproducing/outputting an information, an information processing device connected with the second output terminal is a recording device [742 in fig 20] for recording an information, an information source in relation with an interrupt request is a signal reception device [908-912 in fig 22A].

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Further references of interest are cited on Form PLO-892, which is attachment to this office action.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Effective December 1, 2003, hand-carried and facsimile-transmitted patent application related incoming correspondences will be to a centralized location.

The centralized fax number is 703 872-9306.

The centralized hand carry paper drop off location is:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the technology center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631.


Direct any inquiries concerning drawing review to the Drawing Review Branch (703) 305-8404.

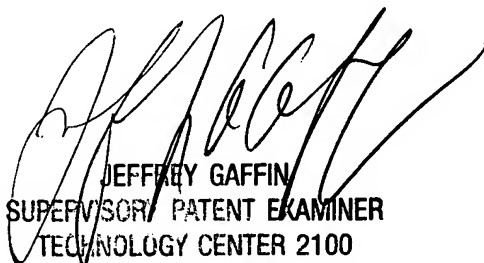
Application/Control Number: 10/054,979
Art Unit: 2182

Page 6

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-1948. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (703) 308-3301.


Harold J. Kim
Patent Examiner
December 12, 2003/HK


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISOR/PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100